MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Pet Microchip Clinic April 30 in Sterling

April 21, 2011 – Waterford, VA – Loudoun County Animal Services is hosting a free pet microchip clinic on Saturday, April 30, 2011, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Northern Virginia Community College's Sterling campus, located at 1000 Harry Flood Byrd Hwy (Route 7).

The clinic is part of the College's Vet Tech Club's annual Dog Wash fundraiser. A number of other activities, including pet grooming and a rabies vaccine clinic, will be included as part of the event.

The microchip clinic is free and open to any Loudoun County resident. Advance registration is not required. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be in carriers. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination for all pets 4 months of age or older.

Microchipping is a safe, permanent way of identifying your pet should they ever be found by Animal Control or a veterinary office. Lost animals are reunited with their owners every day thanks to microchips.

The microchip itself is about the size of a grain of rice. It is implanted under the skin in the area around the shoulders through a needle. The procedure is no more invasive than a vaccination shot, and requires no anesthesia or recovery time.

Once it is implanted, the number on the chip can be read by a scanner (similar to a bar code scanner). The number can then be traced back to the owner so that they can be reunited with their pet.

Help ensure that your pet can safely find the way home - have him microchipped!

For more information on the free pet microchip clinic, please call the Animal Shelter at 703-777-0406 or email animals@loudoun.gov. Details can also be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

The Loudoun County Department of Animal Services is located at 39820 Charles Town Pike, Waterford, VA 20197. Department information can be found at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

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